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## Fifth Committee

**Summary record of the 48th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 27 April 2006, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions*: Mr. Saha

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.*

**Agenda item 46: Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields** (*continued*)

**Agenda item 118: United Nations reform: measures and proposals** (*continued*)

**Agenda item 120: Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit** (*continued*)

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*Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide* (*continued*)
(A/C.5/60/L.37/Rev.1)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.37/Rev.1* (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, during the previous evening's negotiations, a number of revisions had been made to the text of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.37/Rev.1, entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide". First, in the ninth preambular paragraph, the word "Reaffirming" should be replaced by the word "Recalling". Second, a new subparagraph (g), which would read "An assessment of the impact of the proposals on the role and authority of the centralized human resources function", should be inserted into paragraph 2 of section II, and paragraph 3 of that section should be deleted. Third, in the first line of paragraph 4 of section III, the word "defined" should be replaced with the word "identified". Fourth, in the second line of paragraph 6 of the same section, the words "any" and "may" should be deleted and the words "overall departmental" should replace the word "organizational". Fifth, the words "requests the Secretary-General to provide additional information in this regard" should be inserted after the words "proposal 12," in paragraph 3 of section IV.

2. The Group of 77 and China would like the Fifth Committee to take action on the draft resolution, as orally revised, at the current meeting. The sponsors of the draft text wished to see it adopted without a vote, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

3. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

4. **Mr. Pfanzelter** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Chairman seemed to be moving very fast. The Group of 77 and China had asked for immediate action on the draft resolution, despite the obvious lack of consensus, and the oral revisions to the text had merely served to create further confusion.

5. In truth, nobody wanted to vote on the text, because such a vote would have far-reaching and negative consequences not only for the Fifth Committee itself but also for the Organization as a whole. The difficulties facing the Committee were no longer merely technical in nature; they had become political and touched on key issues. Consequently, the document in question could not be treated in the same way as other draft resolutions submitted to the Fifth Committee. He therefore counselled patience and calm and called on the Chairman to suggest an appropriate way forward.

6. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa), speaking on a point of order, said that the Group of 77 and China had not requested a vote on the draft resolution. On the contrary, the sponsors of the text wished to see it adopted without a vote, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

7. **Mr. Ozawa** (Japan) said that his delegation had participated actively and constructively in the previous day's "informal" informal consultations, during which considerable progress had been made. Unfortunately, the oral revisions introduced by the representative of

South Africa did not address all the outstanding issues connected with the draft resolution and it was clear that no consensus existed on the text. Accordingly, his delegation endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Austria and did not wish to take action on the draft resolution at the current meeting.

8. **Mr. Bolton** (United States of America) said that his delegation had also devoted almost eight hours of the previous day to "informal" informal consultations. However, as the representatives of Austria and Japan had pointed out, no consensus existed on the draft resolution, even with the oral revisions. If the Group of 77 and China continued to press for the early adoption of the draft text, the consequences would be clear. In the absence of consensus it would be advisable in his view to refer the matter in its entirety back to the plenary Assembly, in accordance with the terms of the arrangement that had been worked out with the President of the General Assembly.

9. **Ms. Banks** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that there was clearly no consensus on the draft resolution. She appealed to the Chairman to suggest an appropriate way forward.

10. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that, as he understood it, the Group of 77 and China had called for the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote. Australia, Canada, the European Union and New Zealand did not want to vote on the draft and the United States of America was in favour of referring the matter back to the plenary Assembly: he therefore wished to know which delegation had requested a recorded vote on the draft resolution.

11. **Mr. Pfanzelter** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, while he respected the request made by the representative of Egypt, he felt that it would be unhelpful to read out a list of those delegations that had requested a recorded vote.

12. He informed the Committee that approximately 40 delegations had written a letter to the President of the General Assembly earlier that morning asking for his assistance in finding a solution to the current difficulties. That letter would be circulated to delegations shortly.

13. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa) said that the Group of 77 and China simply wished to know which delegations had requested the recorded vote. Given that the President of the General Assembly had entrusted the issue in question to the Fifth Committee, any attempt to refer the matter back to the plenary Assembly without taking action on the draft resolution would be tantamount to requesting a motion for no action. If such a motion was indeed requested, the Group of 77 and China would oppose it and proceed in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.*

14. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.37/Rev.1 had been requested by the delegations of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

*The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.*